



Protecting Yourself and Your Baby Can Be A Success Story...

If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, you need to know about HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS.

Pregnancy is a time to take care of yourself and get regular medical checkups for your health and your baby's health. Your health care provider will ask you questions and check you for conditions that can harm you and your baby. As part of your routine prenatal care, you will be tested for HIV unless you decline. Early detection and treatment are your best choices.

Your health care provider will ask you to sign a consent form to document your acceptance to be tested for HIV.

What is HIV?

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a disease that weakens the immune system, making it hard for the body to fight infections.

How is HIV transmitted?

- HIV is primarily spread by having unprotected sex or sharing needles with an HIV-infected person.
- A pregnant woman who is HIV infected or who has AIDS can pass HIV to her baby during pregnancy, delivery, and while breastfeeding.

How will an HIV test help my baby?

- An HIV test will help you and your baby by alerting you to the need for treatment if your HIV test is positive. Treatment before, during, and after labor and delivery can help decrease the risk of transmitting HIV to your baby.
- Doctors have learned that if you are infected with HIV, treatment with appropriate medication can greatly reduce your chances of giving HIV to your baby.

What if I test HIV positive?

- If you are HIV positive, you may want to discuss treatment options with your health care provider.

You can protect yourself from HIV by:

- Using a latex/polyurethane condom (male or female) when you have sex, even if you are pregnant.
- Not sharing needles for injecting drugs, steroids, vitamins, tattooing, or piercing.

Other resources for help:

- Call the California HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-367-2437 (AIDS) for HIV referral and consultation resources including experts of prenatal HIV treatment in your local area.
- Some California hospitals are also offering rapid HIV testing in labor and delivery. Rapid HIV Testing delivers HIV test results in as little as 20 minutes. You may want to ask your health care provider if Rapid HIV Testing is available in your area.

By signing here, **I do not agree** to be tested for HIV at this time.

Printed name	Signature	Date



PERINATAL HIV TESTING CONSENT

I have been informed that my blood or other bodily fluid will be tested for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the causative agent for AIDS, unless I decline. I understand that I have the right to refuse this routine test.

I have also been given perinatal HIV informational materials and HIV referral and consultation resources for perinatal HIV treatment. These materials also describe the risk of perinatal transmission of HIV to babies, that approved treatments are known to decrease risk of perinatal transmission of HIV, and the risks and benefits of the tests. I have been informed of the limitations and implications of the test.

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I have read the HIV information provided to me by my provider, or have had it read to me, and that I have had a chance to ask questions which were answered to my satisfaction.

As a general rule, the law states that no one but my doctor and other caregivers may be told about my test results unless I give specific written consent to let other people know. Positive results will be reported to the local health officer.

I acknowledge that I have been given information concerning the benefits and risks and I understand by signing this consent form **I agree** to be tested for HIV.

Printed name	Signature	Date